

## APPENDIX

Additional seabirds and shorebirds recorded at Ningaloo or in the surrounding North-West Cape area by other authors.

### Seabird species

Great winged Petrel <i>Pterodroma macroptera</i> <sup>4</sup>
Soft-plumaged Petrel <i>Pterodroma mollis</i> <sup>2</sup>
Flesh-footed Shearwater <i>Puffinus carneipes</i> <sup>4</sup>
Little Shearwater <i>Puffinus assimilis</i> <sup>4</sup>
White-faced Storm-Petrel <i>Pelagodroma marina</i> <sup>1 3</sup>
Australian Pelican <i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i> <sup>1 3 4</sup>
Little Black Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i> <sup>3 4</sup>
Red-tailed Tropicbird <i>Phaethon rubricauda</i> <sup>1 3</sup>
Pacific Gull <i>Larus pacificus</i> <sup>3</sup>
Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> <sup>1 3</sup>
Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i> <sup>3 4</sup>
Roseate Tern <i>Sterna dougallii</i> <sup>1 4</sup>
Sooty Tern <i>Sterna fuscata</i> <sup>3</sup>

Common Noddy  
*Anous stolidus*<sup>1</sup>

### Shorebird species

White-faced Heron <i>Ardea novaehollandiae</i> <sup>3 4</sup>
Striated Heron <i>Butorides striatus</i> <sup>3 4</sup>
Lesser Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> <sup>1 4</sup>
Mongolian Plover <i>Charadrius mongolus</i> <sup>1 3</sup>
Oriental Plover <i>Charadrius veredus</i> <sup>1 3</sup>
Eastern Curlew <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> <sup>1 3 4</sup>
Little Curlew <i>Numenius minutus</i> <sup>4</sup>
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i> <sup>3 4</sup>
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> <sup>3 4</sup>
Great Knot <i>Calidris tenuirostris</i> <sup>4</sup>
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Carter (1904)

<sup>2</sup> Johnstone (1980)

<sup>3</sup> Dept of Conservation & Land Management (1985)

<sup>4</sup> Keeling & Parker (1986)

## A REDSHANK AT PEEL INLET AND A REVIEW OF ITS STATUS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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### SUMMARY

Sightings of a Redshank *Tringa totanus* at Peel Inlet, Western Australia in July 1985 are described and recent records of the Redshank in Western Australia are summarised.

### THE SIGHTINGS AT PEEL INLET

On 10 July 1985, Blyth saw an unusual wader in the northern part

of Peel Inlet, Western Australia. The bird was sighted in tidal marsh between Creery Island and Wanjeep Road, Coodanup. The unusual wader was associated with Black-winged Stilts *Himantopus himantopus*, which were larger in size and it fed energetically, in the fashion of a Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*. Blyth later concluded that the unusual wader was a Redshank *T. totanus*.

Prominent features of the plumage and soft parts of this bird were as follows:

Legs red; rump white; tail white with dark bars; broad white trailing edge to upperwings; bill red at base, black at tip.

The sighting was related to Jaensch on 12 July 1985 and he visited the locality later that day. On arriving at the site he heard the strong *tui* calls of a Redshank. The bird was subsequently observed between 1500 and 1525 hours through a spotting scope, fitted with 20X and 40X eyepieces, mounted on a tripod. It was approached to within 20 metres. His description is as follows: General impression: a plain, light brown wader with orange legs and bold upperwing pattern; intermediate in size and proportions between Greenshank *T. nebularia* and Wood Sandpiper *T. glareola*.

Bill dull pinkish-red on basal half, blackish on distal half and ridge. Legs and toes bright orange; toes partly webbed.

Crown pale with dense dark brown streaks. Supercilium white, extending to beyond eye. Lores blackish. Face and sides and rear of neck white with dense brown streaks; throat and upper chest similar but streaks less dense. Some brown spots on upper chest and lower sides of neck. Underparts white except for some small dark V-shaped marks scattered along flanks. Upper back and scapulars uniform light brown except for a few blackish V-shaped marks. Lesser wing coverts uniform light brown. Pale tertials barred strongly with brown. Lower back and rump white. Tail white with weak brown bars. Undertail coverts white.

Underwing including axillaries white. Upperwing showed secondaries and tips of innermost primaries white, middle primaries blackish grading to grey-brown at tips, and outer primaries dark grey grading to light brown at tips. Tips of outer five or six primaries considerably worn.

The Redshank gave a noisy call (a 'yodelling' whistle) on several occasions when it became alarmed. It fed in the company of 15 Black-winged Stilts and six Greenshanks in shallow pools surrounded by samphire, in algal deposits and in wet bare mud and sand. Several short, erratic flights were made, with stiff wing-beats. In one instance, the Redshank 'bobbed' after alighting: this behaviour is common to members of its genus.

The possibility of the unusual wader being a Spotted Redshank *T. erythropus* was ruled out because the Spotted Redshank has a proportionately longer and finer bill than the Redshank and has inconspicuous greyish-mottled secondaries rather than the conspicuous white secondaries of the Redshank. Jaensch was familiar with both species from travels in Asia and Europe. The Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* was also considered, but this wader has a proportionately shorter bill and a dark centre to the rump.

#### OTHER AUSTRALIAN RECORDS

The Redshank breeds across the Palaearctic from Iceland to north-eastern China and it migrates as far south as South Africa (small numbers) and Timor and has been recorded at Cocos Island and

Christmas Island (Hayman *et al.* 1986). In Australia, it has been reported at least five times from the northern part of the Northern Territory, mostly near Darwin (Day 1984).

Records from Western Australia prior to 1982 were all from the Pilbara Region, as listed by Storr (1984), i.e. single birds at the Leslie Saltfields near Port Hedland (twice), Mangrove Bay and Coral Bay.

Further sightings of Redshanks in north-western Australia have been made as a result of wader study expeditions conducted in the area by the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU) since 1981. In late August 1982, several observers saw a single bird at the Port Hedland Saltfields (Minton 1982). R. Drummond (pers. comm.) saw a Redshank at Roebuck Bay near Broome, on 31 August, 1984. C. Nicholson, K. Lance, K. Morris, R. Jaensch and Hsu Weishu saw four Redshanks at the Dampier Saltfields on 15 February, 1985. RAOU observers saw one on the Eighty Mile Beach near Anna Plains on 6 April, 1985, one at the Dampier Saltfields on 18 April, 1985, and five (one mist-netted) at Roebuck Bay near Crab Creek on 19 April, 1985 (Lane and Jessop 1985). On 30 March, 1987, one was seen at Roebuck Bay near Crab Creek (C. Minton pers. comm.).

The Redshank is clearly a regular visitor in small numbers to north-western Australia. Scarcity of records in past decades may be largely due to a lower intensity of survey effort than in the present decade.

The only previous record of a Redshank in southern Australia was of a single bird at the ICI St Kilda Saltfields, near Adelaide, from 26 May, 1983 to 7 September, 1983 (Day 1984).

## DISCUSSION

During the austral winter months June and July, most adult Redshanks would be at their breeding grounds in the Northern Hemisphere. In addition to the Peel Inlet record described above, four other Australian records of the Redshank have occurred in these months. Two of these records were from Darwin (up to 17 birds on 26 July), and the others were from near Adelaide (May-September) and Mangrove Bay (22 June). Hayman *et al.* (1986) note that a few Redshanks regularly remain in their non-breeding range during the austral winter.

Migratory waders that are still in their first year of life commonly remain in Australia during the austral winter that follows their first visit (e.g. see Close and McCrie 1986, p. 149). Prater *et al.* (1977) indicate that most Redshanks completing their first year of life or entering their second year display moderately worn primaries and partial breeding plumage, whereas birds completing their second year of life (or older) tend to have complete breeding plumage in July. Redshanks in breeding plumage are extensively marked with dark brown spots and bars, and have fresh primaries and bright orange-red legs. Given that the Redshank at Peel Inlet in July 1985 had worn primaries, and more extensive dark markings than an adult in non-breeding plumage (cf. Hayman *et al.* 1986), it was therefore probably completing its first year of life.



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### **RAINBOW LORIKEETS (*TRICHOGLOSSUS HAEMATODUS*) RELEASED ON ROTTNEST ISLAND IN 1960**

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Rainbow Lorikeets have been established in Perth for at least 20 years. Storr (1973) observed a pair in 1968 and commented that they could have "reached Perth unaided . . . and not be escapees from captivity". However, Storr long ago gave up that view (pers. comm.). Forshaw (1981) commented on Storr's published view that they "reached Perth unaided" with the following "I cannot accept this proposition because the pattern of slow spread from a central point, where virtually all early observations were made, denotes establishment of aviary escapees, the most likely means of introduction".

Since 1968 Rainbow Lorikeets have often been reported within a triangle with apices at Mosman Park, Scarborough and South Perth. A possible source of this population could have been escapees from Rottnest. Permission to release Rainbow Lorikeets and Cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) on Rottnest was sought in December 1960 by D.J. Sullivan, Rottnest Island Board Manager (APB File, Fauna on Rottnest Island, 1960). The request was considered by a special committee of members of the Agriculture Protection Board and the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee. That committee "was not prepared to make a favourable recommendation that any fauna non-indigenous to Rottnest should be released on the island" (ibid).